

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07904 061729Z
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /083 W
-----061800Z 052511 /45

O R 061719Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8069
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 07904

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: US-FRG BILATERALS ON DATA

REFS: (A) STATE 100256; (B) STATE 102858

1. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES RECEIVING THE REPORT
CONTAINED REF B REGARDING THE BILATERAL. WHEN WE PASSED
THE U.S. PAPER (REF A) TO RUECKRIEGEL ON MAY 4, PRIOR TO
RUTH'S RETURN TO BONN, RUECKRIEGEL INDICATED TO US THAT
GENSCHER WAS STILL STRONGLY AGAINST THE TABLING OF
NATIONAL TOTALS, BUT THAT RUTH MIGHT ADVANCE IN WASH-
INGTON -- AS A "PERSONAL" IDEA -- THE POSSIBILITY OF
IDENTIFYING UNITS BY NATIONAL DESIGNATION. SINCE RUTH
COUCHE THIS IDEA AS A "POSSIBILITY," IT IS NOT CLEAR
TO US WHETHER HE HAS YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
THE MATTER WITH GENSCHER.

2. WE ALSO ASKED RUECKRIEGEL ABOUT THE CHANCELLOR'S
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APRIL 30 INTERVIEW WITH THE HAMBURG "MORGENPOST" IN
WHICH SCHMIDT AGAIN SPOKE OF THE FRG TAKING INITIATIVES
IN MBFR. RUECKRIEGEL SAID HE KNEW OF NO NEW FRG
INITIATIVES AND THAT THE GERMANS DID NOT PLAN TO GO IT
ALONE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS
SCHMIDT HAD IN MIND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN ELEMENTS OF THE
WESTERN POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE, RUECKRIEGEL

CONTINUED, PERHAPS THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY COULD BE CHANGED TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF FIVE DIVISIONS. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WAS TO MAKE THE NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS' REDUCTION COMMITMENT FIRMER, A POINT WHICH SCHMIDT DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO BONN FOLLOWING HIS MOSCOW TRIP.

3. THE LAST POINT RUECKRIEGEL MADE WAS THAT THE CHAN-CELLOR, GENSCHER AND LEBER HAD MET RECENTLY ON MBFR AND ALL HAD AGREED AGAIN ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARITY AND COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLES. RUECKRIEGEL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT THE GERMAN APPROACH TO THE NATIONAL SUBTOTALS ISSUE SINCE GERMAN INTERESTS WERE MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED. IN RESPONSE, WE ARGUED THAT THE GERMAN POSITION COULD BE SAFEGUARDED BY AN APPROPRIATE DISCLAIMER. RUECKRIEGEL DISAGREED, NOTING GENSCHER'S DISILLUSIONMENT WITH DISCLAIMERS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE CITED GENSCHER'S REFERENCES TO THE LETTERS ON GERMAN UNITY AS AN ILLUS-TRATION OF HOW LITTLE SUCH DISCLAIMERS MEANT IN THE REAL WORLD.

STOESSEL

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